

March 2017



Kiwanis Tennis Complex

- Original 1975 buildings, lighting (42 30-foot poles), and 15 asphalt courts
- 1995 and 2008 – Replaced cushioned playing surface
- 40,000 – 50,000 user contacts annually
- Popular for lessons, competitive leagues, organized drop in play, and general play
- ~40% of use is lessons, with growth in youth under 10 lessons



Existing Lighting

- Light fixtures are no longer manufactured
- One light pole was damaged by wind storm in 2012



Existing Lighting



- Current lighting levels are below minimum USTA recommendations
- Existing fixtures create glare and light spillage



Evolution of Lighting Technology

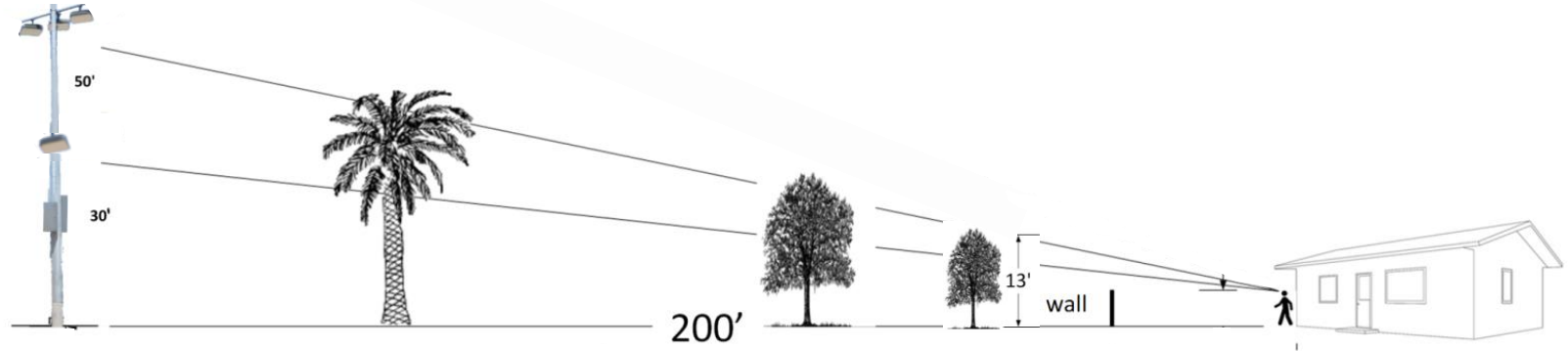


Lighting Improvements

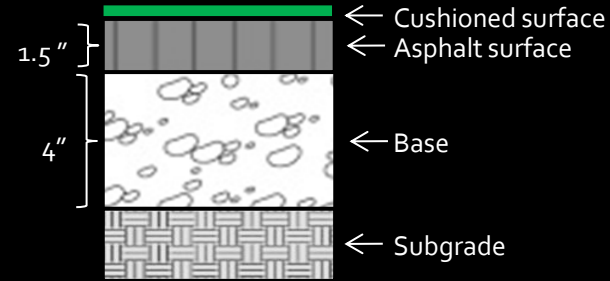
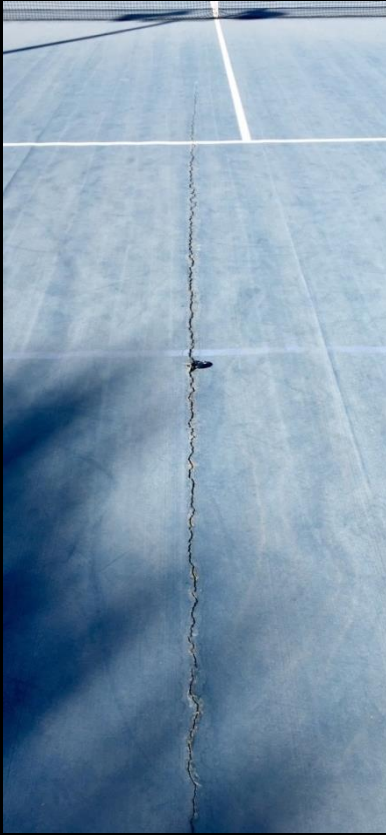
- Replace existing lighting system with new foundations, poles, LED fixtures, conduit, conductors, and SES (Service Entrance Section)
 - 50 feet = 17 new poles 
 - ~\$1.45M
 - 30 feet = 39 new poles 
 - ~\$2.00M



View to West from S. College Ave. Homes



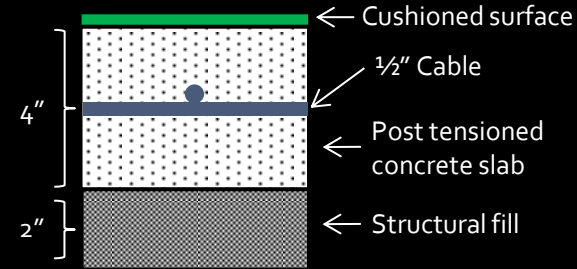
Existing Courts



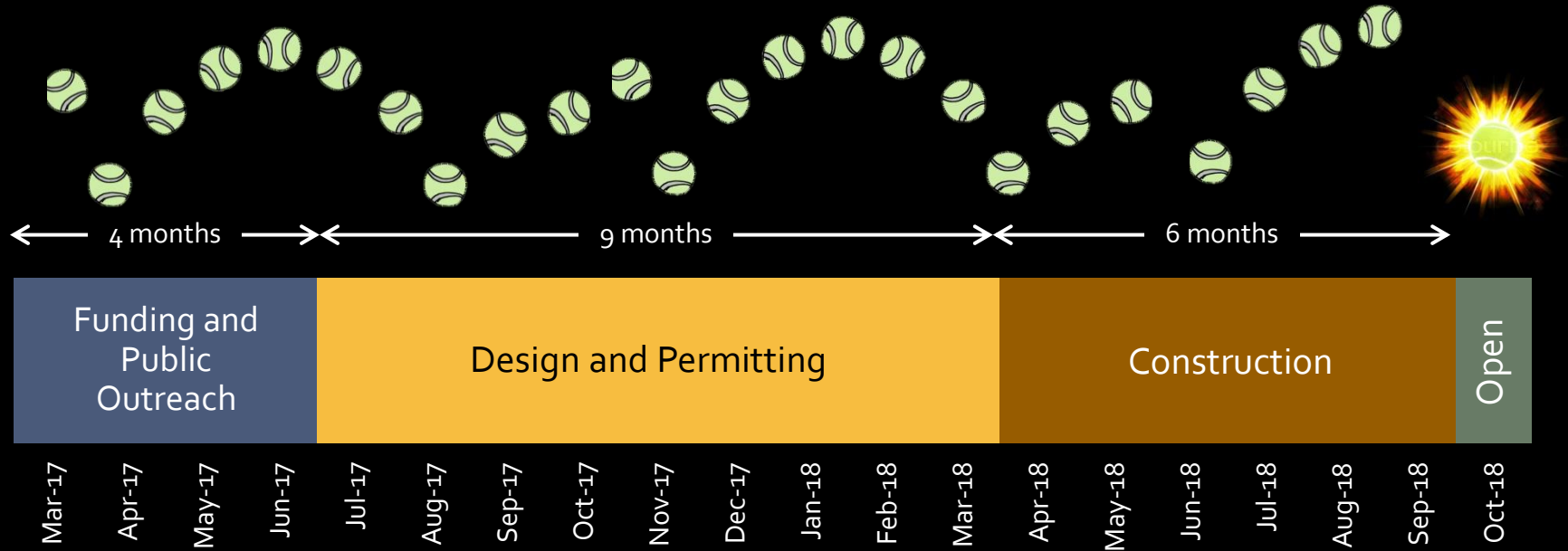
- Asphalt base is raveling
- Failure in the upper court surface
- Cracks will continue to widen
- Hazardous to players
- On-going maintenance

Tennis Court Improvements

- Post-tensioned concrete with cushioned playing surface
 - Resistance to cracking and settling
 - Better drainage
 - Elimination of control joints
 - More uniform playing surface
 - Lower maintenance costs and longer service life (30+ years)



Next Steps





Kiwanis Recreation Center Tennis Complex Restoration Project Survey Results

Overview

A public meeting was held on March 29 to get feedback on the proposed new lighting and court renovations. Seventeen people attended the meeting. Surveys were available at the meeting and online from March 29 through April 5, 2017. Twenty-eight responses were received.

Responses

1. Please provide your input on the proposed 50' LED lighting for the tennis complex.

1. I would say that lighting is what is most needed. I never have experienced LED lighting on a tennis court, but it does sound like a huge improvement.
2. I agree that the tennis complex may benefit from 50-inch LED lighting. It is the industry standard for top-level tennis facilities such as the Phoenix and Surprise tennis centers and will help Tempe draw more tournaments at all levels.
3. LED is the way to go. It is more expensive on the front end, but will last longer, provides a much better light, and will reduce our carbon footprint.
4. LED lighting is a must if the goal is to be a first-class tennis facility. Daytime play in the summer is nearly impossible so having the courts well-lit in the evening will mean more people coming out to play. The surrounding homes will also appreciate the reduced light glare onto their property.
5. That sounds great!
6. Go with 50ft.
7. I think LED lighting is great and reduces the electricity costs of that lighting.
8. LED lighting ... more economical energy use BUT terrible for humans. LED lights have very negative effects on sleep patterns and has been described as junk food for our eyes by light specialists. See an informed discussion here ...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZ5h8kXz4HY> I would prefer light that gives a natural color spectrum.
9. 50 ft. is +/- for me... the expanded 30 ft. LED lighting is very important.
10. I think the fewer poles the better. If the unused bank of courts can be turned off it would save money and not throw as much light into the neighborhood as the existing lights do...Fewer poles fewer expenditures for materials and labor.
11. The 50 foot lighting seems like the best option. Less poles will be needed and the quality of the light will be greatly improved.

12. Yes, better lighting since the current lights are too dim. Also, ensure that the best practices are used. Here's a place to start:
<http://www.itftennis.com/technical/facilities/facilities-guide/lighting.aspx> in addition, talking to facilities managers from other courts could provide add experience.
I'm really excited to hear about the improvements! The lights currently are really not great. 50 foot sounds high but with the new technology perhaps it works just as well.
I've played out at Surprise Tennis Center that has LED and it is fantastic.
13. The new lights sound great.
14. I vote FOR them, they Will be much better lighting than the lights that are currently used
15. Sounds great!
16. Restoring and improving the existing facilities will certainly boost Tempe's status as we see our taxes working for us.
17. Is there an option to have 50' lighting on the western 2/3 of the complex, and 30' on the eastern third? Maybe that could be a workable compromise.
18. It looks like it will provide light coverage more consistently and I like the LED feature.
Also like the fact that each bank can be off/on independent of other banks. Phx tennis center put glare shield on their lights. Would be worth looking at that option also.
19. Excited that lighting will be up to championship standards. Doesn't look like it will impact surrounding neighborhood any more than existing.
20. All for renovation of courts and new lights.
21. Good idea. I come to evening lessons and would like new lights.
22. I like the lower cost 50' pole option. Would like to maintain wind screens on fencing and partial fences between the courts. Shade structure/benches between the courts are great.
23. Will the redesign be USTA approved? Any possibility of pickleball courts? Would really like pickleball courts. Usage would significantly improve if could climatize an area (maybe 4 courts). ASU football practice field might be a workable idea. Also, Flagstaff has domed tennis court. Personally, I am playing pickleball and the sport is outgrowing available courts.
24. No problem with 50' lighting as long as neighbors are happy.
25. Please be sure we can see all parts of the court with these lights. Current lighting has dark shadows in corner. Which height would provide best coverage.

2. Please provide your input on the proposed improvements for the tennis courts.

1. The tennis courts have a lot of dead spots and the resurfacing is overdue. A great improvement over the courts would be to add additional netting between the fence and the center of the court to help balls from rolling into other courts. Adding a covered bench between all courts would be nice.
2. The cushion-style Rebound Ace surface at Kiwanis is not ideal and Tempe should consider a more traditional hardcourt such as a medium grit DecoTurf or GreenSet surface, which is in-line with ITF and USTA norms.
3. Post tension concrete is the way to go. Tennis courts all across the valley are being renovated and have turned to post tension concrete. I do have questions, what is the cost of the post tension concrete courts? Looking forward to your response.
4. The chosen court surface is one of the best available.
5. Would love to have covered bench or tables between courts! And fast surfaces. Thank you.
6. It is my understanding that this large project has a sizeable budget and is expected to provide a solution that will serve the tennis community for some 30 years. Thus, I will assume that a project of this size will not be replicated on these tennis courts in the near future. Therefore I ask that you perform due diligence research as to the pros and cons of adding Pickleball to KRC's outdoor courts. (At your request I can provide you with national and regional statistics of the growth of Pickleball) I believe that your research will conclude that Pickleball should be in the long-term plans at KRC and KRC could become a show piece magnet for the growing community of Pickleball players ... and maybe, it could possibly start with funds from this current budgeted project. While adding four Pickleball courts at Harelson Park is a welcome addition to Tempe's parks, this KRC tennis renovation project provides a unique opportunity to expand KRC's reputation and revenue by simply adding Pickleball to its long-term plans. Thank you for your consideration.
7. Shade between courts. Hooks on shade structures between courts to hold bags off of ground. Extend the fencing between the courts, maybe add waist high fencing for another few yards to catch more rolling balls between courts. Include pickleball striping on some of the courts. Have medium paced courts.
8. I would really like to see courts for pickle Ball included in the Kiwanis Park remodel. This is a great up and coming sport that both older and young adult residents are participating in. Yet there are few courts available in the Tempe area. I currently have to travel to Mountain Park Ranch in Phoenix to play. Several of my South Tempe Neighbors also participate in Phoenix with me. I would rather be able to play in the City I Live in, Tempe. Please include lighted Pickle Ball courts in this and future park improvement projects.
9. This would be a HUUUUUGE improvement
10. I vote FOR the improvements as the courts are in very poor quality at this time
11. Definitely time. I like the durability.

12. I am very happy to see that the tennis courts will be dug up and started from scratch since the current courts are not repairable. The post-tension design sounds good, but I'm hoping you seek advice from Phoenix Tennis Center who recently installed this type of court. They would be a great resource to discuss what they have learned from their experience along with ideas to address challenges. Here are some things I hope you will consider in the design ...The courts must be cleaned and actual maintenance performed routinely and frequently. Cleaning must be a combination of both washing off the courts with water (using water brooms) and blowers to remove sand, dust, bugs, leaves, felt fibers (from the balls), etc from the surface. In order to allow this, power and water must be available in convenient locations throughout the courts, the slope of the courts must allow water to drain easily from the surface, and drainage must be designed so that water will flow quickly away from the courts. I regularly play at Kiwanis and can't believe the total lack of routine cleaning. The courts have so much dust, grit, leaves, etc that I must play conservatively so that I don't slip. My friends and I have asked the current management to address this situation many, many times to no avail. Our home courts are the worst courts in our entire WITLAZ A2 league even compared to other public facilities. Current management claim to regularly clean the courts, but I have never seen evidence that this actually happens. I hope you won't wait for the new courts to begin routine cleaning since we must continue to play on the existing courts. I have noticed many bees on the surface of the courts both dead and lethargic. Given the general concern for the loss of bees from our environment, I wonder if there is some strategy for minimizing the attraction of bees to the courts ... court color? Shade ... I hope the budget has contingency to include some shaded cover between each court. The courts in the most northerly row have retractable nets between the courts which significantly helps to keep balls on the correct court. It would be nice to see this replicated on all of the new courts. Nets can be retracted if this is not convenient. Score keepers ... many courts include score keeping devices mounted the net post. These are very helpful for players and also spectators wanting to keep track of the score without interrupting players. Water fountains ... it's hard to carry enough cool water during summer and heat exhaustion and dehydration are serious conditions. I hope that the water fountains will be upgraded and place in convenient locations. Despite living in a desert, we do get rain. Current management makes no effort to clean or dry courts after rain, even if has stopped the night before. Having to reschedule matches due to wet courts is always difficult due to limited court availability. Squeegees are hanging on the fences, but these are useless. They are so old and baked by the sun that they provide absolutely no help in drying courts. Again, this equipment is not cleaned or maintained by current management. Court 12 ... the gap around the gate in the southern fence is wide enough to allow balls to pass right through and since all the gates are locked, the ball is lost unless you can hail down a passer-by to fetch your ball. I assume that fencing will be replaced which will address this issue.

13. Water should be available with at least one water fountain in each bank of courts or at minimal by the clubhouse. Providing shade for spectators would be nice. If you are redoing the bathrooms, please add an additional stall in the Ladies room...
14. This has been needed for many years to return Kiwanis to the respected facility it used to be. The courts are in very poor shape and aren't even being cleaned at this point, so Kiwanis isn't able to attract players like it should. This will change with new courts.
Thank you!
15. Talk to other facility managers to get their experience and input into what works and what doesn't. Take this opportunity to go hi-tech. Hawkeye - line calling systems (or equivalent), cameras for recording matches. Get a phased plan for a multi-year project. Understand the minimum court requirements and amenities to host major events. It will not only provide the residents with a world-class facility but also bring sponsors, events, travelers, businesses into the area! How's the pro shop?
16. Post tension is the way to go. It will last forever. Many of our high schools (Marcos, Corona) have better surfaces than Kiwanis. The current surface is substandard and has a lot of dead spots.
17. Excited for the new courts with better lightening but am concerned regarding budgeting for caring and maintaining the existing and future courts. I'm having a hard time understanding we have funding for this new project but can't allocate even the cleaning of our courts more than 4 times a year just to mention 1 example. Would like to see this project have stipulations to make sure the courts and the equipment to maintain the courts are funded before proceeding as a tax paying tennis player in Tempe!
18. Please include pickle ball possibilities in the new tennis complex restoration. It is an enjoyable sport for us older people that don't have the stamina to play a full tennis court/game.
19. I'm delighted to see this happen and be able to enjoy the facility in my lifetime.
20. I like your plan. Please don't make surface too slow. And make sure the drainage is correct. Need benches, shade, etc in your plan. Don't forget to replace backboards also.
21. Please be sure to provide shade structure between the courts. Would be nice to have a faster court surface.
22. Good idea!
23. Should adjust plans now before construction to include a minimum of 2 current tennis courts to be converted to pickleball courts. Preferably on a permanent basis. If not permanent, allow courts to be multi-use with stripes to accommodate both. Multiple courts (4) can be placed on 1 tennis court thereby increasing revenue to the city. Tennis play is decreasing while pickleball play is increasing.
24. Need shade structure between courts. Reopen tennis entrance. Medium speed courts.

25. Please put blended 60' court lines on a majority of the resurfaced courts. It would be nice if the city encouraged Pop Tennis (paddle tennis) and Pickleball, in addition to tennis at the Kiwanis Tennis center. Find a way to have limited pickleball hours each week, even if it's not allowed all other hours. Please investigate having weekday morning kids lessons in the summer, as the evening lessons are hot. And the weekend morning lessons are not convenient if you are trying to escape the valley most weekends. This is just my observation from learning to play tennis starting around the 2nd grade, and watching my K, 2nd, and 4th grader try to handle tennis rackets. It's hard to control a tennis racket for young kids. The tennis lessons at Kiwanis can be a little repetitive, with a lot of drills, and little play. I am going to try playing Pop tennis with my younger kids. They can have the sense that they are playing a "real" game, but won't have to/ want to mimic the overhand tennis serve they see in tennis. They can transition to tennis rackets and the game of tennis when they are older and stronger. Just get people out using the courts, whether it is traditional tennis, seniors on 60' courts, juniors on 60' courts, kids on 36' courts, Pop tennis on 60' courts, Pop tennis on 36' courts, pickleball on standard pickleball courts, pickleball like game on 36' courts, pickleball like game on 60' courts.

3. Additional comments

1. I have been playing tennis at Kiwanis consistently for over 20 years and consider it my "home" court. I have unfortunately observed the level of tennis activity at Kiwanis decrease over the years. Nowadays, it often is largely empty when I play at night, or a handful of courts occupied. Granted, this is with respect to leagues and "club players" like myself. There is more activity with the juniors. I would love to see more activity on the Kiwanis courts for adult recreational players. Many players I know refuse to play at Kiwanis because of bad court and lighting conditions and have "moved" to Chandler Tennis Center, where I play as well on a weekly basis. I would love to see Kiwanis be as active as Chandler, and a re-vamp would greatly help with that.
2. My daughter has played and practiced many times at Kiwanis as a junior player and is now playing in college. We know Kiwanis well, along with many other local facilities and out-of-state. I've always felt that Kiwanis was somewhat under-utilized, even during the cooler months. With improvements, you could attract outside vendors to bring tournaments, after-school programs or even a full-time tennis academy to Kiwanis. The city should also work with the Tempe and Kyrene school districts to offer after-school programs to get more kids playing. One other thought relates to the entrance at Kiwanis. It would be ideal to have access directly to the tennis center rather than going through the main entrance. Not sure how to achieve that, but it's worth looking at. I would move the main entrance just south of the locker room exit where you walk out to the tennis courts. Chandler Tennis Center has a great entrance with adjoining meeting/exercise rooms and an air conditioned waiting area. Amenities like those will also help attract more tournaments. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts on a new and improved Kiwanis Tennis Center.

3. I am very pleased that the city recognizes the importance of Kiwanis Tennis Center to the Community. I learned to play tennis at Kiwanis and continue to play leagues and enroll in clinics. I am glad that my tax dollars are supporting a sport like tennis that can be played for a lifetime.
4. Looking forward to using the updated facility.
5. Glad to see the City doing park improvement projects.
6. I do think that adding some pickleball courts would be a good idea. It is becoming the most popular sport for older tennis players and others. Most retirement communities are building pickleball courts to attract more people. If 4 pickleball courts can go in the footprint of one tennis court than that court would generate an additional 75% in revenue. Assuming you charge the same amount to play both tennis and/or pickleball. I think it would be a wise investment.
7. I'm open to a meeting if there is a way I can personally help to put this facility on the MAP!
8. I've been playing at Kiwanis since 1994 although less more lately exactly because of the lights playing at night and the surface having dead spots. This is a long deserved upgrade to one of our Parks/Community Services. Thank You!
9. Please consult with Phoenix Tennis Center to see what did and didn't work for their courts. Allow proper drainage assuming we actually get someone to regularly clean the courts. Have shade provided between each court!! Re open the old entrance to the tennis courts!
10. Additional funding for keeping the courts cleaned needs to be budgeted, including new brooms and squeegees when the courts are wet.
11. Have had a wonderful relationship with KRC over the last 30 plus years. Good to know it will continue to be the same kind of facility for more years to come.
12. Please make sure court drying tools are provided. Thanks
13. Nothing is good without proper maintenance. Kiwanis tennis courts have been lacking in proper maintenance for at least the last 8-10 years. You need to put resources (funds & personnel) into proactive maintenance. Including now with our old courts. Washing courts would be wonderful. But for now: have personnel clean courts DAILY and sweep trash etc on courts. The courts are frequently a hazard! 2. Dedicate funds for benches & shade canopies for the courts please! 3. Please don't add pickleball lines to our competitive tennis courts. Not sure you can have tournament play on courts with pickleball lines. And the noise of pickleball is not conducive to tennis play.
14. Great facility. Needs a little TLC.
15. Kiwanis facilities need to accommodate the needs of all city residents. Kiwanis needs to include pickleball.
16. Any way to make some dual purpose for pickleball?

Kiwanis Recreation Center Tennis Complex Restoration Project

Comments collected from email and phone calls.

Emails

1. 3/24/17 - I hear we may finally be able to get some of the tennis courts (or at least one) converted to pickleball courts. You can probably get 4 courts in the space of one tennis court and generate that much more income per/foot. Lots of us who used to play tennis now play pickleball and have been giving our hard earned bucks to other communities. I'm a Tempe resident and if there's willingness to convert several courts, tournaments can also generate revenue and PR for the city. Thanks for your attention.
2. 3/25/17 - Thank you for your utmost consideration to adapt tennis courts for Pickleball court usage. I'm a 25 year resident of Tempe and began learning Pickleball with Coach Dutch from the early beginnings at the Tempe Y. I was still in the grieving stage, my husband of 36 years died, when Coach proposed the program at the Y. Even though I was not athletic, with Coach's encouragement I heartily participated. At 76 I discovered I was more agile than I thought and turns out I'm competitive too. 😊 My health and physicality has improved, such as bone density, and the ancillary group socials have been terrific. I'm unable to attend the meeting, but wish to add my name to our groups' request for more Pickle Ball Courts.
3. 4/5/17 - Dear City of Tempe Mayor, Councilmembers, City Manager & Chief of Staff, 40+ year south Tempe resident, retired attorney and recent pickleball enthusiast. I attended a meeting last Wednesday evening at Kiwanis Park Rec Center at which plans were discussed for needed renovations of the 15 Kiwanis tennis courts. The plan was well presented by Dennis Burke. There were about 20 people in attendance at the meeting, more than half of which were there in support of adding pickleball courts as part of the renovation. My concern and the concern of other pickleball players in attendance at this meeting were our comments and suggestions though reasonable, practical and in the best interests of all Tempe residents went unheeded and that the City will proceed with the planned and funded renovations to the tennis courts without adding pickleball courts. There are no dedicated, pickleball only outdoor pickleball courts in Tempe. I conducted a survey of the usage of the 15 Kiwanis tennis courts last November during ideal weather. The survey is attached and supports the conclusion the courts are significantly underutilized. Public and private tennis facilities across the country and specifically public courts in Phoenix and Scottsdale are being renovated to include stand alone pickleball courts. Why can't the City of Tempe include a similar renovation to the underutilized Kiwanis courts? Pickleball is among the fastest growing sports in the country. Tennis isn't nearly as popular a sport as it was when the Kiwanis courts were installed 30+ years ago. Tempe pickleball players are NOT asking for equal access to all 15 of the Kiwanis courts. One tennis court can be converted to 4 permanent pickleball courts. The southeastern-most Kiwanis courts are the courts that are the least frequently used. It would seem reasonable to convert one or

two of the SE courts to 4-8 permanent pickleball courts. The conversion of a SE corner court would minimize any impact on the tennis players. Most importantly, the conversion of a tennis court to pickleball would generate additional revenue for Kiwanis and the city of Tempe. This additional revenue would benefit Kiwanis Park, the city of Tempe and ALL Tempe residents. I hope you will take the interests of Tempe pickleball players and all Tempe residents into consideration and carefully consider the proposed renovation plan and funding for the Kiwanis tennis courts. PLEASE ADD PICKLEBALL COURTS. PLEASE GENERATE ADDITIONAL REVENUE FOR OUR CITY. Thank you.

4. 4/6/17 - Dear City of Tempe Mayor, Council members, City Manager & Chief of Staff, I'm sometimes referred to as the Coach as I have taught pickleball at the Tempe YMCA, Pecos Community Center and am currently a faculty member of ASU teach pickleball for college credits. I have been a resident of Tempe for the past 20 years. Some of you may remember me when we all worked on getting the light rail established in Tempe. I attended a meeting last Wednesday evening at Kiwanis Park Rec Center at which plans were discussed for needed renovations of the 15 Kiwanis tennis courts. The plan was well presented by Keith Burke. There were about 20 people in attendance at the meeting, more than half of which were there in support of adding pickleball courts as part of the renovation. My concern and the concern of other pickleball players in attendance at this meeting were our comments and suggestions though reasonable, practical and in the best interests of all Tempe residents went unheeded and that the City will proceed with the planned and funded renovations to the tennis courts without adding pickleball courts. I have discussed this with Larry Funk as early as 2010. Always the same answer pickleball is nice, but not at Kiwanis Park. The USTA won't allow it. That may have been then but maybe things have changed I have included a current quote from Sport Master Sport Surfaces 1034 South Lewis Mesa, AZ 85210 "By USTA and ITF rules, tennis court lines must be white. Pickleball court lines can be added in a different color, so that tennis or pickleball can be played on the same court (at different times, of course) and the eye can focus on the applicable set of playing lines. As with the USTA's kid's tennis program known as 10 & under tennis or Quickstart, it is usually recommended to paint the Pickleball lines in the same color family as the court surface color. If you reconsider the current plans of the Kiwanis to include a couple of pickleball pads several Tempe Citizens would appreciate it. Thank you for considering the contents of this e-mail.

Phone calls

1. 3/23/17 – played many years at Kiwanis, but switched over to Chandler due to the court conditions and Tempe doesn't rank players in league.